

36. Paul and Judaism

1. Overview

- 1) Paul was a Pharisee thoroughly educated in the law within Judaism, but after encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was transformed into an apostle centered on the gospel.
 - 2) This course explores how Paul understood Judaism and how he theologically distinguished the gospel from Jewish legalism.
 - 3) It also examines the differences between the "New Perspective on Paul" and the traditional Reformed view, addressing the role of Jews in salvation history through the lens of the gospel.
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2. Key Topics

- 1) Paul's Pharisaic Background and Jewish Education
 - 2) Paul's Interpretation of the Function and Limitations of the Law
 - 3) Faith vs. Law: The Conflict Over the Way of Salvation
 - 4) Salvation of Jews and Gentiles in Romans and Galatians
 - 5) The New Perspective Debate: Contributions of E.P. Sanders, James Dunn, and N.T. Wright
 - 6) Theological Continuity and Discontinuity Between Paul and Judaism
 - 7) Paul as a Jew and the Concept of the "True Jew" (Romans 2:28–29)
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3. Course Objectives

- 1) To explore Paul's understanding of Judaism within historical, theological, and social contexts
- 2) To discern the essential differences between Judaism and the gospel, particularly the relationship between law and grace

- 3) To critically analyze the theological tension between the "New Perspective" and the traditional view, affirming the integrity of Pauline theology
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4. Discussion & Application Questions

- 1) Did Paul abolish the law or fulfill it? (cf. Romans 10:4)
- 2) What perspective should Christians today have on Judaism?
- 3) How does Paul define the relationship between Jews and Gentiles? (cf. Ephesians 2)
- 4) How should the status of the Jews as the "chosen people" be understood in the light of the gospel?